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Edmonton Area Study
Sampling Report
1984

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The 1984 Edmonton Area Study (EAS) was administered and supported by the Population Research Laboratory and the Department of Sociology at The University of Alberta.

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INTRODUCTION

This paper describes the sampling design and data collection method of the 1984 Edmonton Area Study (EAS). A brief demographic profile of the sample and data collection statistics are also presented.

This is the first Edmonton Area Series report on the 1984 project. Subsequent papers on findings will be announced in the Population Research Laboratory's "In Summary" newsletter.

The Department of Sociology, University of Alberta, conducted the 1984 study through its research facility, the Population Research Laboratory (PRL).

THE TOPIC

For the eighth annual Edmonton Area Study "Community Reactions to Crime" was chosen as the special topic. Questions under this topic related to the respondent's attitudes and perceptions of crime, the criminal justice system, and victimization.

As in the past, faculty members and outside agencies submitted a variety of questions which may or may not have been related to the special topic (See Appendix). In addition, the questionnaire contained a number of replicated questions from previous EAS studies.

SAMPLING DESIGN

Population

The 1984 Edmonton Area Study population universe was designated as all persons 18 years of age and older who at the time of the survey were in a dwelling unit that was enumerated during The City of Edmonton Civic Census in the spring of 1983.

Sampling

As in the previous five studies the 1984 Edmonton Area Study used as its sampling frame a computerized list of addresses compiled by the City of Edmonton from their most recent enumeration (1983). From the computer tape a simple random sample of 560 addresses for personal interviewing was selected. Nursing homes and temporary residences were deleted from the sample. Within the household one eligible person was selected as the respondent for the one hour interview.

Interviewers were instructed to obtain an equal number of male and female respondents within their allotment of interviews. As adult males are generally more difficult to contact, the following selection procedure guidelines were set for the interviewers to assist them in obtaining their quotas.

a. The dwelling unit must be the person's usual place of residence and he/she must be 18 years of age or older.

b. If an adult male answers the door and is willing to be interviewed, he is the respondent.

c. If an adult female answers the door and there is an adult male present who is willing to be interviewed, interview the male. If the male is not willing to be interviewed, and the female is willing, interview the female.

d. If an adult female answers the door and there is no adult male present, choose her as the respondent.

Less than 5% of the first eligible persons from whom an interview was requested, refused. Fifty-two percent of these persons were female and 48% male. Their median age was estimated to be 43 years.

The final sex breakdown of the sample, using the above procedures, was 51% male and 49% female.

DATA COLLECTION

A total of 35 interviewers were hired from the PRL interviewing pool and trained to conduct the interviewing which began in the third week of February (1984). In the week prior to interviewing an introductory letter was sent to each selected address. It briefly described the nature of the study and advised the householder of his selection indicating that he should expect a visit from an interviewer in the near future.

All interviewing was face to face. Twenty-seven percent (1983: 33%) of the interviews were conducted on the first visit. If unsuccessful in establishing contact, interviewers were to make four call back attempts. Four percent (1983: 4%) of the completed interviews required more than four call backs.

Data collection took six weeks with 62% (1983: 58%) of the interviewing being completed during the first two weeks. The average interviewer completed 13 interviews. Fifty-one addresses (1983: 37 addresses) were found to be ineligible, vacant or demolished buildings. Only these addresses were replaced by another random selection. They were defects in the sampling frame rather than non-response addresses. No other replacements were made. The increase in the number of vacancies in the sample compared to last year reflects the high increase in vacancy rates experienced by the City.

The final status of the questionnaires compared to EAS 1983 was as follows:

	1983	1984
Refused	17.7%	15.4%
No contact	4.6	3.2
Language problem	0.9	0.7
Total non-response	23.2%	19.3%
Completed interviews	76.8	80.7
	100.0%	100.0%

The majority of the interviewing was completed during the days Monday to Friday (1984: 76%) (1983: 73%). Thirty-seven percent of the interviewing started before 6:00 pm during weekdays (1983: 31%). As with EAS 1983, Monday had the highest number of completions while Sunday and Friday had the fewest completions. Fifty-five percent of the interviews were obtained without making a prior appointment. Median interviewing time was 65 minutes (1983: 65 minutes).

The completed interviews were selectively and randomly verified through a series of checks which included re-contacting respondents by telephone and home visits. Any significant discrepancies or irregularities found were thoroughly investigated and rectified.

The final sample size was 452 giving a 80.7% response rate.

THE DATA

The raw data file exists in card image format and is stored on magnetic tape. The data were tabulated and cleaned in accordance with generally accepted survey research practices using SPSSx and programs developed by the PRL.

The rectangular data set contains 375 variables for each case. There are a total of 452 cases with 8 decks (cards) per case. A SPSSx (Statistical Package For The Social Sciences) systems file with labels has been created to analyze the data.

The data became available for analysis 30th June, 1984, but access has been restricted for six months to agencies and persons involved in the planning, questionnaire design and execution of the survey. After December 31st, the data will be deposited with the University of Alberta Data Library for public access. The questionnaire and codebook documentation will be available in machine readable form from the Population Research Laboratory.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The median age of the respondents was 34 years. Twenty-four percent of the respondents were single while 56% were married or living in a common-law relationship. The remaining 20% percent were either divorced, separated or widowed.

With respect to religious preference, 52% were Protestant; 31% were Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Catholic, or Greek Orthodox; 4% were Other; while 13% claimed no religious preference.

Ninety-two percent of the respondents were able and willing to provide their gross household income. The median 1983 household income was in the $30,000-31,999 range.

Fifty-one percent of the sample lived in a single detached family home, 27% in multiple family apartments, 12% in row housing, 8% in semi-detached and duplex housing, and 2% in other types. Mobility appears consistent with previous

years' with 22% living in their current residence less than one year and 37% less than 2 years. Thirty-eight percent had resided in their present for 5 or more years.

The sample distribution for size of household as compared to last years' Study is shown in Table 1. Table 2 shows the age distributions for EAS 1983 and 1984, and the City of Edmonton Census for 1983. In both tables the congruence between the samples and census distribution indicates that the 1984 sample adequately represents the Edmonton population.

TABLE 1

Household Size Distributions for the 1983 and and 1984 EAS samples.

Household Size	1983 Edmonton Area Study	1984 Edmonton Area Study
	%	%
1 person	19.8	21.5
2 persons	32.6	32.3
3 persons	16.4	21.5
4 persons	17.9	15.5
5 persons	9.8	6.0
6 persons	1.7	3.1
7+ persons	1.9	0.2
Total	100.1	100.1

*Index of Dissimilarity 8.2

*The index represents the proportion of households that would have to move to a different category to make the distributions identical. The index can vary from 0 to 100. Any index less than 10 indicates that the distributions are similar.

Source: O. Dudley Duncan and Beverly Duncan, "Residential Distribution and Occupational Stratification". American Journal of Sociology, 60(5):493, March 1955.

TABLE 2

Edmonton Age Distributions from the
1983 City of Edmonton Census,
1983 and 1984 EAS Samples

Age Group	1983 Civic Census* %	1983 Edmonton Area Study %	1984 Edmonton Area Study %
20-24	18.2	16.0	15.0
25-34	31.4	36.2	36.7
35-44	16.9	17.5	16.3
45-54	12.9	14.0	12.7
55-64	10.4	7.6	10.7
65+	10.2	8.6	8.6
TOTAL	100.0	99.9	100.0

Index of Dissimilarity: EAS 1984 with 1983 Civic Census 5.6
Index of Dissimilarity: EAS 1984 with EAS 1983 3.6

*Source: City of Edmonton, 1983 Civic Census Printout.

Because of the many replicated questions on the Edmonton Area Studies over the years, it is possible for interested researchers to do cross-study analysis. The PRL has available a program which will retrieve any variable from a particular year and organize a raw data set to suit the needs of the user.'

Those persons and organizations outside the Department of Sociology who are interested in submitting questions for the 1985 project on a time-sharing basis should contact the Director of the PRL before the end of October (1984).

EAS TIMETABLE

4th week October	- deadline for question submission
2nd week December	- pretest questionnaire finalized
1st week January	- pretest
3rd week January	- questionnaire finalized
1st week February	- interviewer training
February-March	- data collection
April -May	- coding, keypunching, data cleaning
June 30th	- data ready for analysis

'Contact Dr. N. Lalu, of the PRL, for further details.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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APPENDIX

1984 EAS TOPICS

1. Demographic Characteristics of Population

2. Community Reactions to Crime

   a. safety
   b. criminal justice system
   c. punitiveness
   d. victimization
   e. attitudes
   f. police

3. Dispute Resolution

4. Social Attitudes and Behaviour

   a. social contacts
   b. community perceptions
   c. social standings
   d. attitudes
   e. alienation

5. Urban Residential Mobility

6. Quality of Life Measures

7. Alcohol and Tobacco

   a. use
   b. attitudes and behaviour
   c. knowledge

8. Personal Health and Medical Care

9. Current Issues

   a. abortion
   b. Sunday shopping
   c. voting behaviour

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30. "Age-Related Expectations Concerning the Effect of Presence of Children on the Subjective Structure of Life Satisfaction"
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* Out of Print